(c) if so, for how many years it is proposed to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme has been in operation since October, 1997, and the second phase of the programme is expected to cover the period 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Stroke due to drugs given for cold

*66. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pills and syrups for cold such as D'Cold, Vicks Action 500, Actified and Coldarin contain Phenyl-propanoamine (PPA), an ingredient that could lead to stroke; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any study has been conducted by Government on these drugs and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) has been commonly used as a nasal decongestant in cough and cold remedies in many countries including India. On the basis of a study conducted in Yale University, the PPA containing products were, withdrawn in USA in November, 2000, because of reported risk of Hemorrhagic Stroke. However, in USA, PPA was also being used in higher strengths as an appetite suppressant in dietary weight loss medications.

The matter concerning reported hemorrhagic risk of PPA was also examined in the same year by the Committee on safety of Medicines of UK and it concluded that since evidence of link between Hemorrhagic Stroke and PPA is weak, the formulations for cough and cold in low doses may continue to be sold in UK through the Pharmacies. Unlike in USA, the drug was not marketed for weight loss in UK.

Issues concerning safety of PPA were also examined in 2000-01 in India in consultation with the Experts and further by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs & Cosmetics

Act. The experts were of the opinion that in view of the similarity in the pattern of use of PPA formulations in India with that in UK, the drug could be permitted to be marketed in cough and cold preparations with daily dose of not more than 50 mg. for children and 100 mg. for adults.

PPA in cough and cold remedies continues to be used in UK, Germany etc. However, a fresh review of the use of PPA in anti cold preparations in context of the recent technical literature available on the drug, has been initiated in consultation with members of National Pharmacovigilance Advisory Committee and other experts.

Price control measures on drugs

*67. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up to examine price control (including trade margin) of drugs have submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restrict profit margin of pharmaceutical companies and also to safeguard the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PI) was constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Supreme Court in SLP NO, 3668/2003 and to suggest measures for fulfilling the objective of National Common Minimum Programme to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. This Committee has submitted its interim report to the Government. The Committee has recommended, *inter-alia*, intensive monitoring on the prices of all those drugs out of the selected basket (National List of Essential Medicines, 2003) which are not under price control, ceilings on trade margins of drugs, a system of price negotiations